

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for joining a meet-me conference call,
said method comprising:

presenting an option to specify a quorum associated
with a meet-me conference call, in response to
user input to an application program co-
resident with a terminal.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the user input
further includes:

an indication that the user is requesting to join a
meet-me conference call.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the user input
further includes:

an indication that the user is requesting to specify
a quorum at a time selected from the group
comprising a time at which a meet-me call is
being scheduled, and a time prior to a time at
which a meet-me conference call is to
transpire.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the user input
further includes:

a telephone number of a conferencing service and a
password for a conference call.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the user input
further includes:

identification of a virtual presence of the user.

1 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said
2 identification of the virtual presence of the user
3 further includes:

4 identification of at least one connection address
5 selected from the group comprising a land-line
6 telephone number, a wireless telephone number,
7 and a network address.

1 7. The method of Claim 5, wherein said
2 identification of the virtual presence of the user
3 further includes:

4 identification of at least one non-media-transport-
5 channel-supporting connection address selected
6 from the group comprising a network address, a
7 wireless web address, and an instant messaging
8 username.

1 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said presenting
2 an option to specify a quorum associated with a meet-me
3 conference call further comprises:

4 presenting an option to specify a quorum associated
5 with the meet-me conference call via at least
6 one device selected from the group comprising
7 an audio device and a visual device.

1 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said presenting
2 an option to specify a quorum associated with a meet-me
3 conference call further includes:

4 presenting an option to join the conference call
5 after at least one designated user either joins
6 or is waiting to join the meet-me conference
7 call.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said presenting
2 an option to specify a quorum associated with a meet-me
3 conference call further includes:

4 presenting a number of users associated with the
5 meet-me conference call, or an identity of at
6 least one user associated with the meet-me
7 conference call.

1 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said presenting
2 an option to specify a quorum associated with a meet-me
3 conference call further comprises:

4 presenting at least one option selected from the
5 group comprising joining the meet-me conference
6 call substantially immediately or joining the
7 conference call after at least one designated
8 user either joins or is waiting to join the
9 meet-me conference call.

1 12. The method of Claim 10, wherein said presenting
2 an option to specify a quorum associated with a meet-me
3 conference call further comprises:

4 presenting an option comprising specifying that a
5 complete quorum must be present before a MC-CMA
6 (Multipoint Controller-Call Management
7 Application program) establishes a meet-me
8 conference call.

1 13. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 sending a message containing user input to a
3 Multipoint Controller Conference Manager
4 Application (MC-CMA), in response to user input
5 specifying the quorum by indicating that the
6 user desires to wait for at least one user to
7 either join or be waiting to join the meet-me

conference call prior to the user joining the
conference call.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the user input
specifying the quorum by indicating that the user desires
to wait for at least one user to either join or be
waiting to join the meet-me conference call prior to the
user joining the conference call further includes:

user input specifying that a complete quorum must be
present before the MC-CMA (Multipoint
Controller-Call Management Application program)
establishes a meet-me conference call.

15. The method of Claim 13, wherein the user input
specifying the quorum by indicating that the user desires
to wait for at least one user to either join or be
waiting to join the meet-me conference call prior to the
user joining the conference call further includes:

user input specifying that the MC-CMA notifies a
Terminal-CCMA (Conference Call Manager
Application Program co-resident with a
terminal) upon detection of at least one
designated user joining or being available to
join a meet-me conference call.

1 16. The method of Claim 13, wherein said sending a
2 message containing the user input to a Conference Manager
3 Application (CMA) further comprises:

4 sending a message over a Call Optimization
5 Application (COA) channel.

1 17. The method of Claim 16, wherein said sending a
2 message over a Call Optimization (COA) channel further
3 includes:

4 establishing an Internet Protocol channel.

1 18. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 originating a media transport channel from the
3 user's terminal in response to a message
4 indicating that the quorum has been
5 established.

1 19. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 presenting notification that the quorum associated
3 with the meet-me conference call has been
4 established via at least one device selected
5 from the group comprising an audio device and a
6 visual device proximate to the user's terminal,
7 in response to a message indicating that the
8 quorum has been established

1 20. The method of Claim 19, further comprising:
2 originating a media transport channel from the
3 user's terminal in response to user input.

1 21. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:
2 presenting notification that the quorum associated
3 with the meet-me conference call has been
4 established via at least messaging service

5 selected from the group comprising a paging
6 messaging service, and an instant messaging
7 service.

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1 ~~22.~~ A system for joining a meet-me conference
2 call, said system comprising:
3 means for presenting an option to specify a quorum
4 associated with a meet-me conference call, in
5 response to user input to an application
6 program co-resident with a terminal.

1 23. The system of Claim 22, wherein the user input
2 further includes:
3 an indication that the user is requesting to join a
4 meet-me conference call.

1 24. The system of Claim 22, wherein the user input
2 further includes:
3 an indication that the user is requesting to specify
4 a quorum at a time selected from the group
5 comprising a time at which a meet-me call is
6 being scheduled, and a time prior to a time at
7 which a meet-me conference call is to
8 transpire.

1 25. The system of Claim 22, wherein the user input
2 further includes:
3 a telephone number of a conferencing service and a
4 password for a conference call.

1 26. The system of Claim 22, wherein the user input
2 further includes:
3 identification of a virtual presence of the user.

1 27. The system of Claim 26, wherein said
2 identification of the virtual presence of the user
3 further includes:
4 identification of at least one connection address
5 selected from the group comprising a land-line

6 telephone number, a wireless telephone number,
7 and a network address.

1 28. The system of Claim 26, wherein said
2 identification of the virtual presence of the user
3 further includes:

4 identification of at least one non-media-transport-
5 channel-supporting connection address selected
6 from the group comprising a network address, a
7 wireless web address, and an instant messaging
8 username.

1 29. The system of Claim 22, wherein said means for
2 presenting an option to specify a quorum associated with
3 a meet-me conference call further comprises:

4 means for presenting an option to specify a quorum
5 associated with the meet-me conference call via
6 at least one device selected from the group
7 comprising an audio device and a visual device.

1 30. The system of Claim 22, wherein said means for
2 presenting an option to specify a quorum associated with
3 a meet-me conference call further includes:

4 means for presenting an option to join the
5 conference call after at least one designated
6 user either joins or is waiting to join the
7 meet-me conference call.

1 31. The system of Claim 22, wherein said means for
2 presenting an option to specify a quorum associated with
3 a meet-me conference call further includes:

4 means for presenting a number of users associated
5 with the meet-me conference call, or an
6 identity of at least one user associated with
7 the meet-me conference call.

1 32. The system of Claim 31, wherein said means for
2 presenting an option to specify a quorum associated with
3 a meet-me conference call further comprises:

4 means for presenting at least one option selected
5 from the group comprising joining the meet-me
6 conference call substantially immediately or
7 joining the conference call after at least one
8 designated user either joins or is waiting to
9 join the meet-me conference call.

1 33. The system of Claim 31, wherein said means for
2 presenting an option to specify a quorum associated with
3 a meet-me conference call further comprises:

4 means for presenting an option comprising specifying
5 that a complete quorum must be present before a
6 MC-CMA (Multipoint Controller-Call Management
7 Application program) establishes a meet-me
8 conference call.

1 34. The system of Claim 22, further comprising:
2 means for sending a message containing user input to
3 a Multipoint Controller Conference Manager
4 Application (MC-CMA), in response to user input
5 specifying the quorum by indicating that the
6 user desires to wait for at least one user to
7 either join or be waiting to join the meet-me
8 conference call prior to the user joining the
9 conference call.

1 35. The system of Claim 34, wherein the user input
2 specifying the quorum by indicating that the user desires
3 to wait for at least one user to either join or be

4 waiting to join the meet-me conference call prior to the
5 user joining the conference call further includes:
6 user input specifying that a complete quorum must be
7 present before the MC-CMA (Multipoint
8 Controller-Call Management Application program)
9 establishes a meet-me conference call.

1 36. The system of Claim 34, wherein the user input
2 specifying the quorum by indicating that the user desires
3 to wait for at least one user to either join or be
4 waiting to join the meet-me conference call prior to the
5 user joining the conference call further includes:

6 user input specifying that the MC-CMA notifies a
7 Terminal-CCMA (Conference Call Manager
8 Application program co-resident with a
9 terminal) upon detection of at least one
10 designated user joining or being available to
11 join a meet-me conference call.

1 37. The system of Claim 34, wherein said means for
2 sending a message containing the user input to a
3 Conference Manager Application (CMA) further comprises:

4 means for sending a message over a Call Optimization
5 Application (COA) channel.

1 38. The system of Claim 37, wherein said means for
2 sending a message over a Call Optimization (COA) channel
3 further includes:

4 means for establishing an Internet Protocol channel.

1 39. The system of Claim 22, further comprising:
2 means for originating a media transport channel from
3 the user's terminal in response to a message
4 indicating that the quorum has been
5 established.

1 40. The system of Claim 22, further comprising:
2 means for presenting notification that the quorum
3 associated with the meet-me conference call has
4 been established via at least one device
5 selected from the group comprising an audio
6 device and a visual device proximate to the

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1 42. The system of Claim 22, further comprising:
2 presenting notification that the quorum associated
3 with the meet-me conference call has been
4 established via at least messaging service
5 selected from the group comprising a paging
6 messaging service, and an instant messaging
7 service.

1 ~~43.~~ A program product comprising:
2 signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
3 present an option to specify a quorum
4 associated with a meet-me conference call, in
5 response to user input to an application
6 program co-resident with a terminal.

1 44. The program product of Claim 43, wherein said
2 signal bearing media is selected from the group
3 comprising transmission media, and recordable media.

1 ~~45.~~ A method for adding a participant to a meet-me
2 conference call, said method comprising:
3 querying a multipoint controller as to participants
4 in or users waiting to join a meet-me
5 conference call; and
6 sending a message containing the results of said
7 querying to at least one Terminal-CCMA.

1 46. The method of Claim 45, wherein said querying
2 is in response to receiving a first message, from a
3 Terminal-CCMA (Client Conference Manager Application co-
4 resident with a terminal) that a user desires or is
5 available to join a meet-me conference call

1 47. The method of Claim 45, wherein the results of
2 said querying comprise at least one indicator selected
3 from the group comprising an indicator that no user is
4 participating in the conference call, an indicator that
5 no user is waiting to join the conference call, an
6 indicator of an identity of at least one participating in
7 the conference call, and an indicator of an identity of
8 at least one user waiting to join a conference call.

1 48. The method of Claim 45, further comprising:
2 querying the multipoint controller as to whether at
3 least specific one user is either participating
4 in or waiting to join the conference call, in
5 response to receiving a second message from the
6 Terminal-CCMA that the user desires to join a
7 meet-me conference call when the at least one
8 specific user is either participating in or
9 waiting to join the conference call.

53. The method of Claim 45 wherein said sending a message containing the results of said querying to at least one Terminal-CCMA further comprises:

 sending a message containing notification that at least one specific user is either participating

6 in or waiting to join the conference call, in
7 response to said querying a multipoint
8 controller as to participants in or users
9 waiting to join a meet-me conference call.

1 54. The method of Claim 45 wherein said sending a
2 message containing the results of said querying to at
3 least one Terminal-CCMA further comprises:
4 originating a media transport channel to the
5 terminal having the at least one Terminal-CCMA.

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1 55. A system for adding a participant to a meet-me
2 conference call, said system/ comprising:
3 means for querying a multipoint controller as to ,
4 participants in or users waiting to join a
5 meet-me conference call, in response to
6 receiving a first message, from a Terminal-CCMA
7 (Client Conference Manager Application co-
8 resident with a terminal), that a user desires
9 or is available to join a meet-me conference
10 call; and
11 means for sending a message containing the results
12 of said querying to at least one Terminal -
13 CCMA.
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1 56. The system of Claim 55, wherein the results of
2 said querying comprise at least one indicator selected
3 from the group comprising an indicator that no user is
4 participating in the conference call, an indicator that
5 no user is waiting to join the conference call, an
6 indicator of an identity of at least one participating
7 in the conference call, and an indicator of an identity
8 of at least one user waiting to join a conference call.

1 57. The system of Claim 55, further comprising:
2 means for querying the multipoint controller as to
3 whether at least specific one user is either
4 participating in or waiting to join the
5 conference call, in response to receiving a
6 second message from the Terminal-CCMA that the
7 user desires to join a meet-me conference call
8 when the at least one specific user is either

9 participating in or waiting to join the
10 conference call.

1 58. The system of Claim 57, wherein said mean for
2 sending a message containing the results of said querying
3 to at least one Terminal-CCMA further comprises:
4 means for sending a message, to the querying
5 Terminal-CCMA, containing notification that the
6 at least one specific user is either
7 participating in or waiting to join the
8 conference call, in response to said querying
9 showing that the at least one specific user is
10 either participating in or waiting to join the
11 conference call.

1 59. The system of Claim 55 wherein said sending a
2 message containing the results of said querying to at
3 least one Terminal-CCMA further comprises:
4 sending the message to a virtual presence specified
5 by a user.

1 60. The system of Claim 59, wherein the virtual
2 presence further comprises at least one user-specified
3 connection address selected from the group comprising a
4 land-line telephone number, a wireless telephone number,
5 and a network address.

1 61. The system of Claim 59, wherein the virtual
2 presence further comprises at least one user-specified
3 non-media-transport-channel-supporting connection address
4 selected from the group comprising a network address, a
5 wireless web address, and an instant messaging username.

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1 62. The system of Claim 55 wherein said means for
2 sending a message containing the results of said querying
3 to at least one Terminal-CCMA further comprises:

4 means for sending a message containing notification
5 that at least one specific user is either
6 participating in or waiting to join the
7 conference call, in response to said querying a
8 multipoint controller as to participants in or
9 users waiting to join a meet-me conference
10 call.

1 63. The system of Claim 55, wherein said means for
2 sending a message containing the results of said querying
3 to at least one Terminal-CCMA further comprises:

4 means for originating a media transport channel to
5 the terminal having the at least one Terminal-
6 CCMA.

1 64. A program product comprising:

2 signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
3 query a multipoint controller as to
4 participants in or users waiting to join a
5 meet-me conference call, in response to
6 receiving a first message, from a Terminal-CCMA
7 (Client Conference Manager Application co-
8 resident with a terminal), that a user desires
9 or is available to join a meet-me conference
10 call; and programming adapted to send a message
11 containing the results of said querying to at
12 least one Terminal-CCMA.

1 65. The program product of Claim 64, wherein said
2 signal bearing media is selected from the group
3 comprising transmission media and recordable media.

66. A system comprising:
a Conference Call Manager Application co-resident
with a terminal (Terminal-CCMA); and
said terminal comprising electrical circuitry
selected from the group comprising electrical
circuitry having at least one discrete
electrical circuit, electrical circuitry having
at least one integrated circuit, electrical
circuitry having at least one application
specific integrated circuit, electrical
circuitry forming a general purpose computing
device configurable by a computer program,
electrical circuitry forming a memory device,
and electrical circuitry forming a
communications device.

67. The system of Claim 66, wherein said Conference
Call Manager Application co-resident with a terminal
(Terminal-CCMA) further comprises:
a token processor.

68. The system of Claim 66, wherein said Conference
Call Manager Application co-resident with a terminal
(Terminal-CCMA) further comprises:
a token generator.

69. A system comprising:
a Multipoint Controller-Call Manager Application (MC-CMA) proximate to a conferencing engine;
and
said conferencing engine comprising electrical circuitry selected from the group comprising electrical circuitry having at least one discrete electrical circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one integrated circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one application specific integrated circuit, electrical circuitry forming a general purpose computing device configurable by a computer program, electrical circuitry forming a memory device, and electrical circuitry forming a communications device.

70. The system of Claim 69, wherein said Multipoint
Controller-Call Manager Application (MC-CMA) proximate to
a conferencing engine further includes:
a token processor.

71. The system of Claim 69, wherein said Multipoint
Controller-Call Manager Application (MC-CMA) proximate to
a conferencing engine further includes:
a token generator.